



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: D. Darst  
Serial No.: 10/672,239  
Conf. No.: 8709  
Customer  
No.: 33123  
Filed: September 25, 2003  
For: *PILL BOX AND SPLITTER WITH BLADE  
GUARD*  
Art Unit: 3724  
Examiner: O. Sanchez

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO  
37 CFR 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the attached papers are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

11/23/05  
Date

Michelle Malenko  
Signature

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Because this Information Disclosure Statement is filed prior to receipt of a First Office Action on the merits of the above-captioned application, a fee for filing this statement should not be due. If, however, it is determined that a fee is due, then any fees that may be due in connection with filing this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1213.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to inform the Patent Office of all material references known by Applicant or Applicants' representative, this Information Disclosure Statement prepared in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98 is hereby submitted. The Form PTO/SB/08a (1 page) is provided herewith for filing in connection with the above cited application. The cited references that comprise issued U.S. patents and applications are not attached, per the Notice of waiver published in the Official Gazette on August 5, 2003.


*D. Darst.*  
*Information Disclosure Statement*  
*Application No. 10/672,239*

The document(s) cited on the Form PTO/SB/08A are in the English language. Hence, in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, as amended effective March 16, 1992, no further explanation of the listed items is necessary.

Although these documents and information are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with Applicants' duty of disclosure, such disclosure is not to be construed as an admission by Applicants or Applicants' representative that any of the references, singly or in any combination thereof, is effective as prior art against the subject application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b) exists.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the foregoing references and request that they be made of record in the file history of the above-captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heller Ehrman LLP

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1

of 1

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/672,239
Filing Date	09/25/2003
First Named Inventor	Darst
Art Unit	3724
Examiner Name	O. Sanchez
Attorney Docket Number	40070-0360

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 4,173,826	11/13/1979	Leopoldi et al.	
		US- 4,887,755	12/19/1989	Gibilisco	
		US- Des. 310,731	09/18/1990	Lieptz	
		US- 5,038,475	08/13/1991	Wolff	
		US- 5,118,021	06/02/1992	Fiocchi	
		US- 5,944,243	08/31/1999	Weinstein	
		US- 6,527,155	03/04/2003	Buckley et al.	
		US- 6,557,945	05/06/2003	Eric	
		US- 6,739,488	05/25/2004	Sharpe	
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	† <sup>5</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> "Number" <sup>4</sup> "Kind Code" <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.